

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) announced today that the Cooperstown Fire Department will receive \$36,533 from the Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program for operations and safety.

"All homeland security begins with our local fire departments. That is why I am pleased to announce this grant to help the Cooperstown Fire Department continue to perform the important work that it does so well," said **Arcuri, a member of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus**.

The Fire Department will use the funds to purchase a new air compressor and cascade system to help firefighters breathe in hazardous environments, as well as an improved radio interconnect system to allow first responders to better communicate with each other in emergencies.

"This federal grant is crucial to the safety of our citizens and firefighters, because it allows the department to buy updated, sophisticated equipment without directly taxing local residents," said James Tallman, purchasing officer and firefighter for the Cooperstown Fire Department.

The AFG program provides funds to firefighters, emergency response personnel and first responders to protect the health and safety of workers and local citizens. Since 2004, the program has granted nearly \$2.2 billion nationwide.

###